

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City Council Approves Parking Study for Potential Town Square Project

Bainbridge Island, Wash., (January, 2017) – The City Council approved developing a request for qualifications to study the need for additional parking and the potential impacts on traffic flow related to a potential <u>town square project</u> in downtown Bainbridge Island.

Over the past year a task force consists of Winslow Merchants, Commercial Property Owners, Bainbridge Island Downtown Association, Bainbridge Island Chamber of Commerce, the Bainbridge Island Farmers' Market, Bainbridge Performing Arts and others have been meeting to have preliminary discussions regarding how the City could potentially enhance our current town square (the area located between BPA and City Hall). In addition to focusing on improvements that would provide better community space and improvements for the Farmers' Market, the Task Force also discussed the development of a parking facility.

For the past three years, responses to the community survey conducted by National Research Center on behalf of the City of Bainbridge Island have rated public parking on Bainbridge Island as one of the lowest rated community characteristics. In addition, complaints about the lack of public parking in the downtown area are among the more frequent types of complaints received. Efforts to address public parking needs date back almost three decades and have generated several studies.

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